

**In the claims**

Please enter the following amended claims:

1 (cancelled).

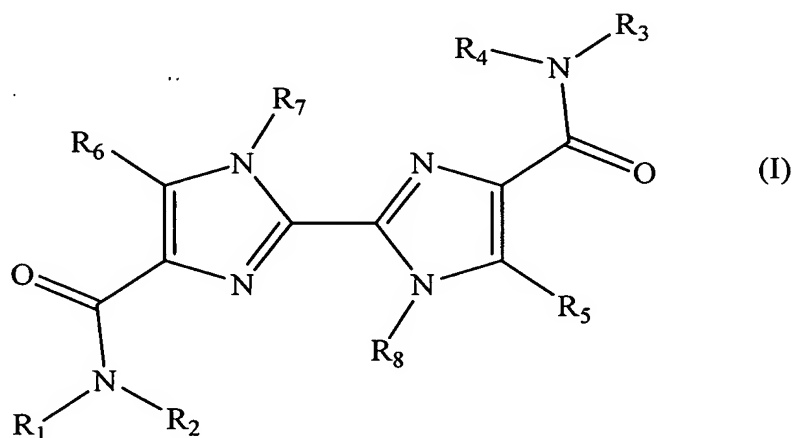
2 (currently amended). The method of claim 7 ~~compound of claim 1~~, wherein at least one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is a macrocyclic ligand.

3 (currently amended). The method of claim 7 ~~compound of claim 1~~, wherein at least one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is a lipophilic group.

4 (currently amended). The method of claim 7 wherein said compound of Formula I is ~~compound of claim 1~~ immobilized on a solid support.

5-6 (cancelled).

7 (currently amended). A method of binding an anion, comprising contacting an anion to a compound of Formula I ~~according to claim 1~~ so that said anion is bound thereto;



wherein:

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, arylalkenyl, substituted arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, substituted arylalkynyl, aroyl, acyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, halogen, cyano, nitro, macrocyclic ligand, and lipophilic groups;

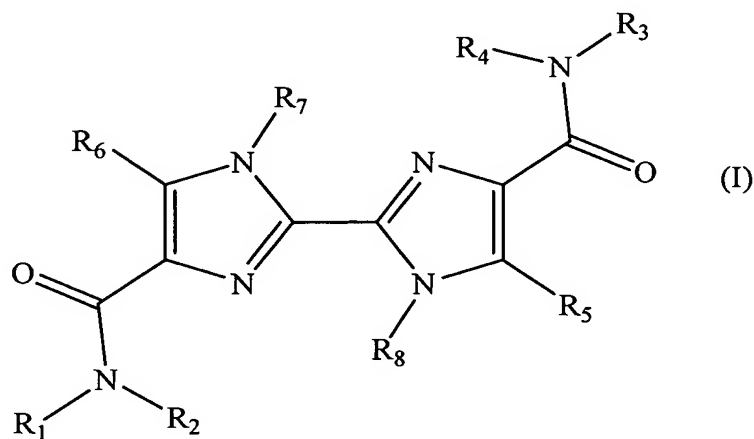
R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, arylalkenyl, substituted arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, substituted arylalkynyl, aroyl, acyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, halogen, cyano, nitro, or a macrocyclic ligand; and

R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each independently H or lower alky.

8 (original). The method of claim 7, wherein said anion is sulfate.

9 (original). A method of extracting an anion from a mixed composition containing the same, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said mixed composition to a binding compound of Formula I so that said anion is bound thereto;



wherein:

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, arylalkenyl, substituted arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, substituted arylalkynyl, aroyl, acyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, halogen, cyano, nitro, macrocyclic ligand or lipophilic groups;

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, aryl, substituted aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, arylalkenyl, substituted arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, substituted arylalkynyl, aroyl, acyl, heterocyclic, substituted heterocyclic, halogen, cyano, nitro, or a macrocyclic ligand; and

R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each independently H or lower alkyl; and then

(b) separating said binding compound from said mixed composition to thereby extract said anion from said mixed composition.

10 (original). A method according to claim 9, wherein said mixed composition comprises nuclear waste material, and said method further comprising the step of vitrifying said mixed composition following said separating step.

11 (original). A method of claim 9, wherein said binding compound is immobilized on a solid support.

12 (original). The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is a macrocyclic ligand.

13 (original). The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is a lipophilic group.

14-17 (cancelled)